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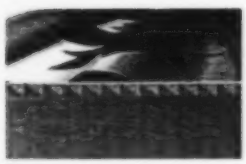

News Release Communiqué

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INAC SUPPORTS LITTLE NATIVE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

SUDBURY, ONTARIO (February 16, 2007) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced a contribution of $5,000 to support the Little Native Hockey League (Little NHL) tournament, scheduled for March 12 to 16, 2007, in Sudbury.

Minister Prentice congratulated the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation of Manitoulin Island for organizing the event, saying: "Canada's new government applauds the hard work of all the volunteers who are bringing together the players, coaches, and families from across Ontario. This tournament is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate support for First Nations youth and culture by promoting activities that result in active and healthy lifestyles."

"Little NHL is a wonderful opportunity for First Nations children, their family and friends to come together, participate in the sport of hockey, and be exposed to Aboriginal cultures from across Ontario," said Kendra Mahdahbee, co-ordinator of the 2007 Little NHL tournament. "Every year, First Nations youth from across Ontario, look forward to attending this prestigious event, making new friends and spending quality time with their families."

This is the 36th year for the tournament, which now features more than 100 teams, with more than 2,000 players. The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, is organizing this year's tournament being hosted by the City of Sudbury.

Funding provided by the Government of Canada will support the cultural component of the event which includes traditional teaching circles, offered free to all ages at various times during the tournament at arenas around the city.

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